



PHOTOS: DELACORTE THEATER AND HEADSHOTS

## **THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES ANNUAL GALA AT THE DELACORTE THEATER TUESDAY, JUNE 10**

**One-Night-Only Event Celebrating  
The Reopening of The Delacorte Theater  
Featuring Leslie Odom Jr.**

**Evening to Honor the Jerome L. Greene Foundation  
and Public Theater Designer Paula Scher**

**Hosted by Gala Co-Chairs Susan Edelstein, Kenny Leon, and Teresa Tsai**

April 10, 2025 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director Oskar Eustis, Executive Director Patrick Willingham, Board Chair Luis A. Miranda, Jr., Board Co-Chair Pat Fili-Krushel) announced today its annual gala, to be held **Tuesday, June 10 on the lawn outside the newly renovated Delacorte Theater**, where guests will have an exclusive preview as The Public lights up the reimagined theater for the first time. The unique, one-night-only celebration will feature a performance by Tony and Grammy Award winner **Leslie Odom Jr.** The gala celebrates The Public's commitment to accessible theater and the return of Free Shakespeare in the Park to a significantly enhanced venue. Completed in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy and NYC Parks, The Delacorte's revitalization ensures a more comfortable and sustainable experience for audiences and cultural workers for decades to come. Further guest performers will be announced at a later date.

This year's annual event will be hosted by Gala Co-Chairs **Susan Edelstein, Kenny Leon, and Teresa Tsai**.

This year, The Public honors the **Jerome L. Greene Foundation** for their unwavering commitment to Free Shakespeare in the Park, recognizing their nearly decade-long support in ensuring this beloved cultural institution remains a vital and accessible part of New York City life. Their partnership has been instrumental in bringing world-class theater to countless New Yorkers, enriching the city's cultural landscape.

"For nearly a decade, the Jerome L. Greene Foundation has been an absolutely essential partner in making Free Shakespeare in the Park a reality for all New Yorkers," shared **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Their unwavering support has ensured this beloved tradition remains a vital part of our city's cultural fabric, and we are deeply honored to recognize their extraordinary commitment."

The event will also celebrate designer **Paula Scher**, honoring her remarkable three-decade partnership with The Public Theater. For thirty years, her visionary design and branding have shaped The Public's visual identity, and her unique artistic vision has created a powerful and distinctive brand that resonates

with audiences. Her work has been instrumental in communicating The Public's mission and productions to generations of theatergoers.

"Paula Scher's work has been inseparable from The Public for over thirty years," said Eustis. "Her extraordinary artistry defines us to the world, and we are thrilled and honored to celebrate the immense impact she has had on us and on New York City."

"There's an undeniable energy pulsing through Central Park at the site of The Delacorte Theater, and this year's gala promises to be unlike any other," said **Executive Director Patrick Willingham**. "The excitement and anticipation are palpable as we get a first look at the triumphant return of the revitalized Delacorte. It's a gift to all New Yorkers, destined to serve as a beacon of free theater for generations to come. We're beyond proud to honor the visionary Jerome L. Greene Foundation and the legendary Paula Scher, whose transformative contributions have helped shape The Public's journey, and with the support of our amazing co-chairs, benefit committee, and guests, we're poised to celebrate in style and look ahead to a future bursting with bold, diverse art and storytelling."

The June Gala will kick off with a cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m. in Central Park outside The Delacorte Theater, followed by a three-course dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m. Musical performances will take place throughout.

Gala tickets are available by calling **212.539.8634**, online at [thepublic.nyc/Gala25](https://thepublic.nyc/Gala25), or via email at [gala@publictheater.org](mailto:gala@publictheater.org). Proceeds from the Gala will help support The Public's mission of providing a home for artists who give voice to the pressing issues of our time, provide free and affordable access to thousands of New Yorkers with Free Shakespeare in the Park and other groundbreaking works, and strengthen the vital relationship between our artists and audiences.

After 61 summer seasons, The Delacorte closed in the fall of 2023 for a much-needed revitalization—the first meaningful capital upgrades since 1999—to ensure it will continue to be a home for artists and audiences for generations to come. The Public, in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy, NYC Parks, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Ennead Architects created a design and construction plan that minimized impact on Central Park and foregrounded resilience and sustainability to ensure the longevity of The Delacorte. The revitalized Delacorte will offer a state-of-the-art experience for audiences, artists, and staff alike with improved access for people living with disabilities.

The Delacorte will reopen this summer with a production of Shakespeare's classic comedy **TWELFTH NIGHT**, directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director **Saheem Ali**. The production will feature Public alumni **Bill Camp**, **Khris Davis**, **Peter Dinklage**, **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**, **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Sandra Oh**, and **Daphne Rubin-Vega** and Public debuts **b** and **Moses Sumney**. Lupita Nyong'o's brother **Junior Nyong'o** will make his New York debut opposite his sister, playing the twins Viola and Sebastian.

To support The Public Theater, become a Supporter or Partner by visiting [publictheater.org/supporttoday](https://publictheater.org/supporttoday).

### **BIOS:**

The **JEROME L. GREENE FOUNDATION** supports select programs that make a significant impact on the lives of all New Yorkers in the areas of the arts, education, medicine, and social justice. Its 40-year history is grounded in the vision of its founder, Jerry Greene, to give back to the city he loved. Today, the Foundation honors this commitment by continuing to fund quality programs and by identifying new ways to increase access to the arts and to education, create opportunities for ground-breaking medical research, and help ensure social justice for all. [www.jlgreene.org](https://www.jlgreene.org)

**PAULA SCHER** is one of the most acclaimed graphic designers in the world. Since 1994 she has designed identities, season campaigns, and posters for The Public Theater that have redefined the look of modern branding for the performing arts. Scher is a principal in the New York office of the distinguished international design consultancy Pentagram, where she has created identity systems for organizations including the Museum of Modern Art, Shake Shack, Citibank, Microsoft, Tiffany & Co., the Library of Congress, the High

Line, and more. Over the course of her five-decade career Scher has been the recipient of hundreds of industry honors including the National Design Award, the D&AD Special President's Award, the AIGA Medal, and the Royal Designer for Industry. Her designs, including her posters for The Public, can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, the Library of Congress, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and other institutions. She is the author of several books, including *25 Years at the Public: A Love Story* (2020). Scher and her work are also the subject of a documentary in the Netflix series, "Abstract: The Art of Design."

**LESLIE ODOM JR.** is a multifaceted Tony and Grammy Award-winning, three-time Emmy and two-time Academy Award-nominated vocalist, songwriter, actor, producer and *New York Times* bestselling author. With a career that spans all performance genres, Odom has received recognition for his excellence and achievements in Broadway, television, film, and music. He was nominated for two Tony Awards last season as producer and star of the revival of Ossie Davis' *Purlie Victorious*. For his performance as legendary soul singer Sam Cooke in Regina King's *One Night in Miami*, Odom was nominated for two Academy Awards, and he is a Tony and Grammy Award-winner for his work in the Pulitzer Prize winning, *Hamilton* the musical.

**THE PUBLIC THEATER** continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Lab, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 195 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 63 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 70 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes.  
[publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people—and the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards, and we pay our respects to the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

The Public also gives our respect to the people of Seneca Village, a community of Black property owners who were removed from their land and whose village was destroyed in the creation of Central Park. We recognize the sacrifice that these ancestors made and honor Seneca Village's legacy.

The **Jerome L. Greene Foundation** is the proud season sponsor of Free Shakespeare in the Park.

The Delacorte project is publicly and privately funded with \$42 million contributed by the **New York City Mayor, City Council, and Manhattan Borough President**, as well as \$1 million from **New York Assembly Member O'Donnell**. The Public also wishes to acknowledge **State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal** and **NYC Parks** who have contributed funding to the Central Park Conservancy's Delacorte restroom renovation project.

Event Production for **GALA** by **Empire**.

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